

Orange Factory Village, House No. 9
Old Orange Factory Road (St. Rt. 1628)
Durham
Durham County
North Carolina

HABS No. NC-9 D

HABS
NC,
82-0154
5.

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ORANGE FACTORY VILLAGE, HOUSE No. 9

HABS No. NC-9 D

Location:

Old Orange Factory Road, Durham County, NC
(Number 9)
USGS NW/4 Durham North 15' Quadrangle, Universal
Transverse Mercator Coordinates
17.691100.4000070

Present Owner:

Susanne Schneider
Real Estate Administrator
101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701

Present Occupant:

Demolished, summer 1984

Significance:

The Orange Factory houses, dating from the 1860's were built to accommodate employees of one of the earliest cotton mills in North Carolina. They assume historical significance as components of the mill complex and as the former nucleus of a company village, Orange Factory, North Carolina.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1850's to 1860's
2. Original and subsequent owners: Pages 33-36 of Orange Factory Village, HA No. NC-9, show the chain of title to the land on which the house stands.
3. Original plans and construction: No original drawings or plans have been located. Two story, three-bay wide frame house is original. Original windows and doors retain their simple Greek Revival trim. Stone pier foundations remain.
4. Alterations and additions: The one-story shed roof porch and electricity were added about 1916. The one-story frame ell on east side functioned as a kitchen. Exterior end brick chimney has new stack above shoulder.

B. Historical Context:

Orange Factory, a small rural mill village located in the Little River valley, dates from the 1850's and provides an important picture of the early stages in the development of industrial life in North Carolina. Its collection of Creek Revival style workers' housing represents one of perhaps less than five remaining examples in North Carolina of pre-Civil War mill workers' housing. The remains of the cotton factory, water race system and grist mill, along with the dam, workers' housing with garden plots, supervisors' houses, schoolhouse, church, cemetery and well show the physical context in which the social and economic life of this self-sustaining community functioned. Orange Factory village is representative of the period when industrial sites were dependent on water power and thus located along the waterways of North Carolina in relatively isolated, rural settings. Unlike some early industrial sites which developed into larger towns, and other later ones which started out in more urban settings, Orange Factory has retained its small-scale, rural atmosphere indicative of the early mill villages in the state.

Prepared from materials cited in
Orange Factory Village, HABS No. NC-9, by

Annette Liggett
Environmental Coordinator
City of Durham
March 1984

(House Number 9)

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: Constructed as part of the Orange Factory Mill complex, this worker's house typifies the wood framed, clapboard sided worker's houses which constituted mid-nineteenth century, rural vernacular architecture. In general, they are I plan, center hall, two story structures with one story additions.
2. Condition of the fabric: The exterior masonry was in sound condition as were the clapboard walls, windows and doors. Roofs were generally in good condition. The structure was scheduled to be demolished during the summer of 1984.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The main section of the house measures 30'-3" x 18'-2". The east wing measures 16'-3" x 14'-2".
2. Foundations: The house was erected upon rubble stone piers which are located at the corners and midspan along the sides.
3. Walls: The exterior walls are covered with simple wood clapboard siding with a 5" exposure and plain corner boards.
4. Structural system, framing: The building is constructed of wood plate and stud walls which support wood floor joists and rafters. The spacing of the studs is about 2'-6" on center.
5. Porches: A single porch measuring 26'-5" x 7'-9" runs along the north side of the main house. The floor is a simple, raised concrete slab. The hipped, corrugated, galvanized tin roof is supported by four (4), round, wood columns.
6. Chimneys: Three (3) chimneys serve the house. At the west end, a two story brick chimney with a corbelled cap serves two (2) fireplaces, one on each floor. At the east end of the house a small brick chimney penetrates the roof and may at one time have served a wood or coal cook-stove. Toward the west end of the south slope of the main roof is a terracotta pipe chimney with a metal chimney cap. It is believed that this chimney once served a space heater.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The doorway on the north (porch elevation) side of the house is a six (6) light over three (3) horizontal panels set into a fluted architrave with corner blocks. The doorway on the south elevation of the main section of the house consists of a five (5) panel door surrounded by a fluted architrave with corner blocks. The doorway on the south side of the east wing consists of a six (6) panel door with a flat board architrave.
- b. Windows: The main section of the house has six over twelve lights per sash on the first floor and six over six lights per sash on the second floor. Window architraves are fluted with corner blocks. The north elevation of the wing contains a two over two sash window with simple board frames. The east elevation contains a double window with six over six sash with a simple board architrave.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The gabled roofs of the main section and west wing of the house are covered in corrugated, galvanized tin as is the hipped shed roof of the entry porch.
- b. Cornice: A single, rectangular board forms the barge boards at the gable ends of the roof. There is no cornice at the eaves where the rafter tails were left exposed.
- c. Dormers, towers: None.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

- a. Cellar: A dirt floor crawl space runs beneath both sections of the house.
- b. First floor: A center hall divides the main section of the house in half. From the hall are four (4) doors; two doors are at the ends and lead to the exterior and two doors lead into rooms on the east and west side of the hall. The hall serves as a landing for the stair to the second floor. The west parlor contains a fireplace which has been infilled. The room to the east contains

a small closet beneath the stair and a door leading to the kitchen located in the east wing of the house.

- c. Second floor: The stair from the first floor terminates in a small hall area which divides the house into two unequal parts. The east room is the smaller of the rooms and contains a closet. The larger room, located on the west side, contains an infilled fireplace.
 - d. Attic: A low, unfinished attic exists above the second floor rooms.
- 2. Stairway: A single stair connects the first and second floors. The stair runs straight through the width of the house with a window at the bottom. The stair is enclosed with the exception of the bottom step which projects into the first floor hallway. The stair is constructed of wood treads and risers.
 - 3. Flooring: The flooring throughout the building was painted, tongue and groove, pine flooring. Vinyl asbestos tile covered the kitchen floor.
 - 4. Wall and ceiling finishes: Walls and ceilings were plastered; walls were painted or papered; ceilings were painted.
 - 5. Doorways and doors: Interior doors are vertical tongue and grooved boards with chamfered, horizontal battens. Architraves consist of flat boards.
 - 6. Decorative features: See windows.
 - 7. Hardware: The doors were hung on simple cast butt hinges and operated with surface mounted rim locks with china knobs. Window sash locks were simple metal castings.
 - 8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Heat was provided by an oil fired hot air furnace. Cooling is provided by portable window units. Ventilation is achieved through open windows.
 - b. Lighting: The house is equipped with wiring, outlets, and a few rooms have modest ceiling mounted light fixtures.
 - c. Plumbing: The house is equipped with plumbing including well water and a septic system.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces north, built along an undesignated dirt road which connects to Old Orange Factory Road. The size of the lot is not known.
2. Historic landscape design: The landscaping consists of a few flowers, a grass lawn, and a few nearby trees.
3. Outbuildings: None.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Early views:

1913 Sanborn Insurance Map

1937 Sanborn Insurance Map

B. Interviews:

Interviews are cited in Orange Factory Village, HABS No. NC-9, on page 46.

C. Bibliography:

Secondary and published sources: The major source for all material was Cultural Resource Investigations at Orange Factory, Libscomb's and Johnston's Mills, Durham Co., NC prepared by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc., Newark Delaware, in December 1983. Other sources were those cited in that document, as shown.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Due to the proposed construction of a water supply reservoir by the City of Durham, a Memorandum of Agreement was designed which would assure the mitigation of impact to defined significant cultural resources within the reservoir basin. These included archaeological resources consisting of three mill sites and a mill village, Orange Factory; the architectural resources at the mill village (workers houses), and the history and folk-lifeways of the villagers. The necessary data recovery operations, as specified in the MOA, were conducted by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc. and qualified consultants. This was accomplished during the spring and summer of 1983. Data recovered concerns 18th and 19th century grist mills, a 19th and early 20th century textile mill operation, and the 19th and 20th century workers village and community residents.

The combination of historical sites archaeology, historic documentary research, architectural recordation, and oral history studies, was generally effective in assuring the preservation of much of the cultural background and details of the rural North Carolina industrial complex.